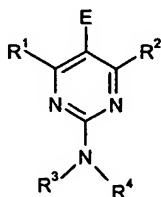


ABSTRACTPROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PYRIMIDINE COMPOUNDS

(I)

A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (I) and intermediates useful therein are provided. The process comprises reacting a compound of formula $R^1\text{-CO-CH}_2\text{-E}$ with a compound of formula $R^2\text{-CHX}^1\text{X}^2$ in the presence of a compound of formula $R^3R^4\text{N-C(=NH)NH}_2$ and a catalyst, thereby to form a dihydropyrimidine; and oxidising the dihydropyrimidine to form the compound of Formula (1). R^1 is H or an alkyl group; R^2 is H, an alkyl or aryl group; R^3 and R^4 are each independently H, alkyl or aryl, or R^3 and R^4 are linked to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached to form a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring; E is H, an unsubstituted alkyl group, and aryl group or an electron withdrawing group; and X^1 and X^2 are each independently leaving groups, or X^1 and X^2 together represent =O.